

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION 99-033
RECOMMENDATION FOR
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
LARKSPUR LANDING FERRY TERMINAL,
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, MARIN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District has applied to the State for Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for maintenance dredging of approximately 755,000 cubic yards of sediment in two episodes from the Larkspur Landing Ferry Terminal in Larkspur, Marin County; and,

WHEREAS, disposal of this dredged maintenance material would be at the designated Alcatraz Disposal Site (SF-11); and,

WHEREAS, the dredging is maintenance dredging necessary to maintain the safe operation of facilities located at the Larkspur Landing Ferry Terminal; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act reviews permit applications to determine if the proposed activity will meet state water quality certification for the proposed activity; and,

WHEREAS, Water Quality Certification is for an activity that requires a federal license or permit that states there is reasonable assurance that any discharge to navigable water of the United States will not violate water quality objectives (Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3830 et. seq.); and,

WHEREAS, Regional Board staff recommends that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District receive a multiple-year certification that applies to two dredging episodes at the Larkspur Landing Ferry Terminal; and,

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District proposes to dredge to authorized maintenance depths; and,

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District has submitted technical reports relevant to the first dredging episode for review and approval prior to the commencement of the first dredging episode; and,

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District will submit technical reports for review and approval prior to the second dredging episode; and,

WHEREAS, technical reports reviewed and approved by the Regional Board staff must support a determination by staff that the proposed dredging project will not violate state water quality standards; and,

WHEREAS, dredging for both episodes is expected to be complete by December 31, 2000; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on June 21, 1995. This plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Office of Administrative Law on July 20, and November 13, 1995, respectively. A summary of regulatory provisions is contained in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3912. The Basin Plan defines beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the State, including surface waters and groundwaters; and,

WHEREAS, the reports submitted must show that the proposed activity meets the water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan prior to approval of the dredging episode; and

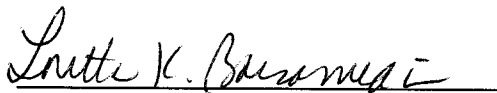
WHEREAS, this project is maintenance dredging where the dredged material will be deposited in a disposal area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies and is therefore categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15304(g) of the Resource Agency Guidelines; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board recommends that the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board grants Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and State regulations in Title 23 California Code of Regulations Section 3830 et. seq. for the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to dredge and dispose of 755,000 cubic yards of dredged material with disposal at the Alcatraz Disposal Site (SF-11) conditional upon the following:

- 1) Dredging activities will not occur during the Pacific herring spawning season (December 1-March 1) unless otherwise authorized in writing by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- 2) Overflow from barge loading is not allowed, with the exception of return-water from self-propelled hopper dredge vessels that shall be limited to 15 minutes per load.
- 3) Discharges of dredged material shall comply with annual and seasonal volume target limits for disposal at in-Bay disposal sites set in the Basin Plan.
- 4) Sediment suitability determinations for the second episode of dredging shall be made by Regional Board staff in conjunction with the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO). The sediment testing program shall follow all applicable federal and state guidance allowing a tiered testing framework. Any required testing shall be described in a technical report that is prepared according to federal and state guidance and submitted for approval by Regional Board Staff in conjunction with the DMMO. The dredging and disposal episode subsequent to the initial episode of approximately 730,000 cubic yards shall not commence until authorized in writing by the Executive Officer.
- 5) The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District shall be required to provide information on water quality impacts of dredging and dredged material disposal under Section 13267 of the California Water Code. The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District may elect to participate in the San Francisco Estuary Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances (RMP) by paying a fee of \$0.22 per cubic yard of dredged material (calculated using pre- and post-dredge surveys, or if unavailable, using bin volumes) that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District discharges to the Bay. The Regional Board recognizes these payments as fulfilling requirements to provide information under Section 13267.

With these conditions, this Regional Board directs the Executive Officer to transmit this resolution to the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on May 25, 1999.


LORETTA K. BARSAMIAN
Executive Officer